

Asbury Park Historical Society



APHistoricalSociety.org

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Where the Past Meets the

April, May, June 2014

STEPHEN CRANE HOUSE FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

The Asbury Park Historical Society has launched fund raising campaign to help finance its proposed acquisition and restoration of the historic Stephen Crane House.

The Crane House, located at 508 Fourth Avenue was built in 1878, and is probably the oldest remaining house in Asbury Park. The city was founded by James A. Bradley in 1871.

Stephen Crane is considered to be a pioneering literary giant having written the Realist novels *Maggie* and *The Red Badge of Courage*. American author Ernest Hemingway called Stephen Crane “One of the three most important writers in American literature.”

Crane moved to Asbury Park when he was eleven and remained here until he was about twenty. He actually began writing in Asbury Park and one of his earliest books, *The Black Riders*, was inspired by the waves in Ocean Grove. Crane, who was also a war correspondent, died from tuberculosis in Germany on June 5, 1900 at the age of 28. Asbury Park’s Stephen Crane House is the last extant structure in the US associated with him.



The Stephen Crane House

The AP Historical Society has filed an application with the New Jersey State Preservation Office (SHPO) to have the Stephen Crane House placed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The application will be reviewed by SHPO in July. If the society is able to raise enough money to purchase the house, it will actively seek grants and tax-exempt status.

“We are trying to raise \$250,000 by the end of the summer, at which time we hope to have enough money to cover expenses related to purchasing, maintaining and restoring the house,” society president Don Stine said.

Current Stephen Crane House owner Frank D’Alessandro said he will sell the house to the society for \$1. “However, there will be closing, escrow, insurance, utilities, taxes and other ongoing costs, including

restoration work”, Stine said. The house would become the headquarters for the historical society, used for community events and continue its current educational programs.

The AP Historical Society is planning to create a special Stephen Crane House Endowment Fund to help purchase and restore the historic house. A special packet outlining the historical society’s efforts and providing extensive background information about Stephen Crane, his house and the endowment fund has been prepared, and can be obtained by contacting Don Stine at 732-774-4590. Donations can be made through the PayPal buttons on the Asbury Park Historical Society web site (www.aphistoricalsociety.org) or by mailing a check to APHS, P.O. Box 543, Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

Asbury Park’s Journalistic Heritage

A horse-drawn carriage, once used as a delivery wagon for The Asbury Park Press (APP) was installed in the city’s James J. Howard Transportation Center on Friday, March 12th. This was a joint project of the city’s public works department and the AP Historical Society. A protective fence is also part of the installation.

The transportation center also houses the neon *Rainbow Room* sign, which hung in the now demolished Albion Hotel, and was recently restored as a joint project of the historical society and the city’s LGBT community.

“A public area like the transportation center is the perfect place to display these items to be enjoyed by everyone,” said Don Stine, President of the AP Historical Society. “The

Press called and asked if we were interested in it.”

The wagon, built about 1879, was donated by the Gannett Corporation, the present owners of the APP. Its unique story spans Asbury Park’s journalistic history. Kathleen Abatemarco, Senior Human Resources Manager for the East Region of Gannett, said it was used to deliver the *Shore Press*, owned by Dr. Hugh S. Kinmouth. He later sold the paper to his nephew J. Lyle Kinmouth, who converted it into the *Daily and Sunday Press* which later became *The Asbury Park Press*.



News wagon in its new AP home

Paranormal Cares

A big “shout out” to Kathy Kelly, owner of *Paranormal Books & Curiosities*, 627 Cookman Avenue, who used her museum to benefit the Historical Society’s efforts to purchase and restore the historic Stephen Crane House. All of the \$5 museum admission fees collected on Sunday, June 8

were contributed to benefit this historical society campaign.

The Paranormal Museum is a small, storefront museum in the tradition of "Roadside America" attractions. It houses a collection of historical and educational exhibits that explore the unexplained myths, legends and folklore that permeate our culture, dot our history books, and continue to defy explanation in our world- despite all the advances in science and modern technology.

"The museum was created for the purpose of exploring those mysteries that remain in our modern world of science and reason. It is a showcase of all that exists in the borderland betwixt imagination and reality. Visitors to the museum are invited to explore the real life history and diverse culture woven into the fabric of each unsolved paranormal activity," museum founder Kathy Kelly said.

Free Historical Augmented Reality Tour of the Asbury Boardwalk Launches June 29th

Interest in the Asbury Park Boardwalk has been experiencing an upswing recently. It has changed significantly in its 100 year history – many structures that once contributed to its fame are no longer standing. Monmouth University professors Mike Richison and Marina Vujnovic and Kean University professor Ed Johnston have spent two years researching this history and are very happy to announce the official launch of Asbury Park's first historical augmented reality tour – Augmented Asbury Park. Augmented Asbury Park officially launches Sunday June 29 and will be live for at least a year. Guided tours are available on Sundays in July at 2:30 PM in the Grand Arcade. For more information may visit the AP Historical Society's web site at

www.APHistoricalSociety.org or www.augmentedasburypark.com.

Annual Boardwalk Art Show

The Asbury Park Historical Society is pleased to announce our annual *Art on the Boardwalk* show and sale. Open to all fine art artists (no crafts please), the event will be held Sunday, 8/17/14 from 10am – 4pm on the boardwalk between Sunset & 5th Aves., south of Convention Hall. Entry fee for artists is \$75.00 which includes a 10 x 12 space. Reserve your space today!



Call Teddy 848-667-3432 or Dolly 732 776-5323 for more information. Applications available at APHistoricalSociety.org.

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Please share your love of local history with others-new members are always welcome!

Asbury Park Historical Society Membership
P.O. Box 543 Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712
(732)869-HIST wwwAPHistoricalSociety.org

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Annual Dues (dues paid in Oct., Nov., Dec. are good for the following year)

Senior (age 65 and up) \$15.00 Individual \$25.00 Family \$35.00

Corporate \$150.00 Benefactor \$500.00

Renewal? Yes No

Donation only \$ _____ Thank you PayPal: antichay@g-mail.com

Please make checks payable to the "Asbury Park Historical Society"

Signature _____

Date _____